

NSC BRIEFING

30 November 1959

IRAN

I. Iran is anxious to end the Soviet radio propaganda campaign, now in its ninth month, against the Shah's government, but still refuses to pay Moscow's price of restricting Iran's defense ties with West.

A. However, the tempo of diplomatic exchanges has markedly increased since the Shah met with Soviet Ambassador Pegov on 8 November,



II. We continue to be concerned over stability in Iran.

A. Public grievances against the regime remain unalleviated, and military and civilian groups continue to plot against the government.

B. If the Shah's third marriage (scheduled for 21 December) produces an heir, a significant new stabilizing factor may well have come into being.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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10 November 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Latest Estimate of the Current Situation in Cuba.

1. This memorandum is for the Director's information only.

2. The appointment of Ernesto Che Guevara as President of the National Bank confirms the last estimate presented to the DCI, which announced Castro's intention of making every unit of the Cuban Government subordinate to the Agrarian Reform Institute. Guevara's assumption of this position could easily be the first step towards the nationalization of all banks in Cuba and the issuance of worthless bonds in exchange for deposits now in the banks.

3. January 15th is a crucial date in Cuba. By then the harvest will be in. If Castro can collect for the entire harvest he will have about \$500,000,000 to pour into the government, i.e. the Agrarian Reform Institute. In previous years this money was available to private citizens.

4. In Cuba today there are various opposition groups scattered throughout the country. One group which, although in widely separated parts of the island, is in strong opposition to Castro is made up of the twenty thousand-plus ex-officers and ex-soldiers of Batista's army who, if not in jail, cannot get work because they are classified as enemies of the state. However, the only cohesive military group which is opposed to

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Fidel Castro is composed of some twenty-seven hundred men in the Dominican Republic under the command of General Pedraza. Pedraza appears to be the only military officer of high rank with an organized following. Pedraza is not too closely linked with Batista, as he was retired from active service by Batista in 1952, when Batista took over power from Prio. He was pressed back into active service towards the end of the revolution.

5. Pedraza has told opposition leaders that he would lead an armed force against Castro and, if successful, would obey the civil authorities who took over from the Castro government.

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